

Judge Barkett earned her J.D. from the University of Florida Law School, where she became the first woman to be awarded the J. Hillis Miller Memorial Award as the outstanding senior graduate. After having practiced civil and trial law from 1971 to 1979, she was appointed to circuit court judge in the Fifteenth Judicial Court of Florida. After only 4 years she was elected as chief judge of the circuit, becoming the first woman chief judge in the State's history. Two short years later she was appointed to serve on the Florida Supreme Court, again marking the first time in the State's history that a woman had been named justice. Finally, in 1992 her colleagues chose her to become Florida's first woman chief justice.

Throughout the years, Judge Barkett has been consistently honored for her achievements. The recipient of seven honorary degrees from institutions of higher learning, she has also earned dozens of honors and awards from national and state professional, civic and charitable groups. Her contributions have also been uniquely recognized by the creation of the "Rosemary Barkett Outstanding Achievement Award", given each year to two outstanding lawyers by the Florida Association of Women Lawyers, and the "Rosemary Barkett Award" which is presented by the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers to a person who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to equal justice under law.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Honorable Judge Rosemary Barkett for her continued service to the Miami community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

IN RECOGNITION OF POLICE CHIEF
STEVE SWEENEY

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Police Chief Steve Sweeney, who is retiring this month after nearly 30 years of service to the City of Livermore. Chief Sweeney has served his community with excellence and has executed his role as a public servant with professionalism, fairness, and integrity since he joined the Livermore Police Department in 1984. Under his leadership, the department has remained fiscally stable and has maintained vital partnerships with outside agencies, schools, and community groups.

As a former prosecutor, I understand the importance of cultivating the public's trust and assistance in ensuring our communities remain safe places to live and work. Chief Sweeney's work has exemplified this model of service, as he has stressed accessibility and community outreach throughout his tenure. For example, he has overseen the expansion of the Livermore Police Department's Citizen's Academy, Youth Academy, and Neighborhood Watch programs.

Chief Sweeney graduated from Cal State University, East Bay before becoming a patrol officer and member of the SWAT team of Livermore in 1984. He steadily climbed the ranks and served as a detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and captain before becoming chief

of the department in 2007. Chief Sweeney played a key role in the merging of the Pleasanton and Livermore SWAT teams in 2011, which resulted in the formation of the new East County Tactical Team. Even after several years of budget cuts, Chief Sweeney's skilled management and leadership enabled the Livermore Police Department to hire seven new officers this past January and restore the department's Drug and Gang Task Force.

I want to thank Chief Sweeney for his decades of public service to Livermore and for helping to keep the East Bay a great place to live, work, and visit. After his retirement, he plans on staying in the town he has served for so many years and looks forward to spending time with his wife and three children. I wish him the best of luck as he begins this new chapter of his life.

HONORING MS. JANISSET RIVERO-
GUTIERREZ

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month I rise today to honor Ms. Janisset Rivero-Gutierrez, an outstanding individual and someone who has been vital in the effort to bring about a democratic Cuba.

Ms. Rivero-Gutierrez was born in Camagüey, Cuba and left at the age of 14. She lived in Venezuela before moving to the United States, where she earned a bachelor's degree in communications and advertising from the Instituto Universitario de Nuevas Profesiones in Caracas. She is currently working on her master's degree in Spanish literature from Florida International University.

In 1994, Ms. Rivero-Gutierrez initiated Operation Boitel, a campaign involving travel to other countries in order to generate support for the opposition movement in Cuba. She continued to do work to bring about a democratic Cuba and in March of 2002 testified before the Inter-American Commission of the Organization of American States and presented a detailed report on human rights violations in Cuba. Similarly, in April of the same year she spoke before the United Nations Human Rights Commission, one of only two Cuban exiles who were able to testify.

Ms. Rivero-Gutierrez is a founding member of the Cuban Democratic Directorate, a non-governmental organization that supports human rights efforts in Cuba. She has worked extensively for this organization, and engages directly with opposition groups in Cuba, relaying their messages to the international community and co-author of Steps to Freedom, an annual report that documents the opposition movement's actions of protest against the totalitarian Cuban regime.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Janisset Rivero-Gutierrez for her continued support of human rights efforts in Cuba and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

SUPREME COURT HEARS A CHALLENGE TO CALIFORNIA'S "PROPOSITION 8" AND THE FEDERAL DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, this week the United States Supreme Court will hear arguments on two cases that are fundamental to the way our democratic society functions. Tuesday they will consider a challenge to California's "Proposition 8" prohibiting homosexual marriage in the state. And on Wednesday they will look at the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

In the midst of all the discussion and protest surrounding these arguments, I would encourage the Court to not be distracted from the fundamental issue before them—will the U.S. Supreme Court choose to radically redefine marriage, thus overturning the will of the American people as reflected in numerous votes by states, and by a vote of this body and signed into law by President Bill Clinton?

I urge the Supreme Court to uphold the will of the American people, support traditional marriage, and protect the democratic process by allowing the American people to express their will on this issue.

HONORING MS. CARLA DEAN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 25, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month I rise today to honor Ms. Carla Dean, an outstanding individual and someone who has continuously supported the community in and around Collier County.

Ms. Dean is President and Founder of the Bladder Cancer Foundation of Florida, a non-profit organization committed to educating the public and medical community about bladder cancer for awareness, research and early detection. Professionally, Ms. Dean is a registered radiologic technologist with specialties in mammography and radiology. In her over 40 years of experience she has worked in a variety of management positions, including lead mammographer, lead medical coder for a large radiology group, and headed a nuclear medicine department.

Outside of her professional career, Ms. Dean is heavily active in the Collier County community. She has been a member of the Collier County Republican Executive Committee, CCREC, since 2000, serving as its chairman from 2004–2009. As chairman of the CCREC she helped revive Teenage Republicans, and instituted Republicans "After 5" social gatherings which allowed candidates, elected officials and others to meet socially. Ms. Dean also helped form the Collier Republican Club, which has proven to be one of the largest Republican organizations in Collier County.

While Ms. Dean remains active with the CCREC, she still finds the time to be active in the community elsewhere. She currently